

# voice of the people

## Adventist leader explains role

Re: An Adventist's Bankrupt Empire

In your issue of May 30, your research job on the above subject was incomplete. You make it appear that I, as past president of the General Conference (of Seventh-day Adventists) received an exorbitant rate of interest because I had invested \$7,000 with Dr. Robert J. Davenport and a few years later "was repaid nearly \$32,000."

The same records your correspondents used to reveal this half-truth must surely have recorded the fact that further subsequent loans brought the total of my personal investment to \$18,000.

If your correspondent had taken the trouble to compute the above information at 15 percent with

compounded interest, as the records surely revealed, there should be no problem in reaching the "under \$32,000" figure over a six-year period from May 1971 to August 1977. My rate of interest was not higher than anyone else who invested in Dr. Davenport's "Capital Loan Account."

In making the loans I did to Dr. Davenport, I was not in any known conflict of interest. It is true that I was a board member of the Christian Record Braille Foundation at the time an official of the institution evidently made a loan to Dr. Davenport. This loan was made without the authorization or the knowledge of the board.

I learned of the transaction sometime after my retirement and after my loan had been repaid. Through the years I have adhered strictly to the "conflict of interest" policy of my church. I have never accepted any favors from Dr. Davenport.

I declined to comment when your correspondent phoned because it would not be appropriate for me, as a former world leader of the church, to make statements while my successors were attempting to resolve the matter and litigation might result.

I do not concur in the least with your assessment that "the Adventist empire" is "bankrupt." The Seventh-day Adventist church is still strong and vibrant. It remains one of the fastest growing churches in Christendom today. It still carries on its worldwide spiritual and philanthropic program that gave help to over 11 million people around the world last year.

Aug. 30, 1982,  
ROBERT H. PIERSON  
Hendersonville, N.C.

## Little ayatollahs?

Our nation was founded upon the principle of freedom, expressed through our Constitution. We Americans have enjoyed what other countries have not, freedom born from the blood and pens of our forefathers.

But now we are on the path toward losing that freedom. Special interest groups threaten our American way by seeking to impose their way of thinking on all of us. Calling themselves workers for God, they, with President Reagan, will erode our Constitution and our freedom if the proposed amendment on prayer in schools passes.

This action could lead our country to a church-state system reminiscent of the Dark Ages. If the religious intolerance of Europe of old does not sober your mind, look at Iran today. Let's not let little Ayatollah Khomeinis running around in three-piece suits negate our freedom.

If godly parents want their children to pray, let them pray with their children before they go to school.

I too am a Christian. Every morning I pray for our nation. I pray that this amendment will not pass. If it does, our nation will not have a prayer.

MICHAEL J. DIAMOND  
Grand Terrace

## Balanced leadership

The budget in this country is not all that is unbalanced. There are things that need attention a lot worse than the balancing of the budget.

There needs to be a president and a Congress who are interested in all of the people.

For instance, the manufacturers of farm machinery have doubled or more the prices of farm machinery within a very few years. The farmers who raise the food should be allowed to enjoy the same situation. The supermarkets are turning out millionaires by the dozens while the farmers are going bankrupt.

It is time that we get some people in Washington who will think about more than just taking one or two gimmicks and forgetting that they have a responsibility to someone other than those with money to invest or those who happen to be on a lucrative paying job with the government. What about the millions who are jobless? What about the millions who are sick, the millions who are homeless and the millions who are too old to do anything?

It is mostly the people in this last bunch that politicians are juggling for money to balance the budget. We need to give people who are not already millionaires those jobs in Washington. Maybe they would be able to see the plight of so many of our people.

What we really need is a balanced bunch of men in Washington to run things for us.

BOB JOHNSON  
Devore

LOUIS NEESE  
San Bernardino

## Social Security tax

Your editorial "Facing Social Security Squarely," Sept. 6, was very informative and timely. Yes, something should be done. But what?

You indicated that a single worker who reaches 65 this year would get back his lifetime contributions, with accrued interest, in 3½ years. What about employer contributions? At what rate of interest?

Social Security is the only pension plan that I know of which is fully exempt from income taxes. Federal and private employee pensions are exempt only until employee contributions are returned — no interest is considered. Military retirement pay is subject to income tax from inception since there was no employee contribution. The concept is equitable. Taxes were already paid on employee contributions; they had not been paid otherwise. I believe that SS can be made viable simply by requiring income tax be paid on all SS payments after the employee contribution has been returned to the individual. Payments beyond that would be considered normal personal income subject to tax, at whatever rates an individual's total income would require. The elderly who have little or no income would pay according to the law. The essence of this proposal is to tax those who can afford it and not tax those with minimal income.

The tax on SS incomes would be returned to SS to keep the fund viable without major change to existing rules. This would mean no reduction of payments to retirees and no increase in retirement age. It is beyond my belief that such a proposal is not being thoroughly studied. My letters to Washington get gobbledygook responses; I cannot associate the response with the letter (I sent).

Please help me call this to the attention of legislators and current and future SS recipients. Thank you.

STANLEY J. BENKOSKI  
San Bernardino

## Lauds Highway Patrol

I listened to an editorial commentary broadcast on one of our local radio stations, KQLH. It came across as an outrageous indictment on the conduct of our Highway Patrol during the Unuson Festival here in Devore. It likened the conduct of the officers who were responsible for traffic control to the storm troopers of Nazi Germany.

To anyone who did not witness the absolutely outstanding job these officers did under the most trying of circumstances, you are led to believe that they were being paid off by the Unuson Corp. to do nothing but see to it that all businesses in the area would not be able to sell their wares to the people who descended on their area.

As a resident of Devore who was initially opposed to the festival, I would like people to know just how fantastic the Highway Patrol was in carrying out its assignment — Friday and Saturday was a very difficult time.

To me it was unbelievable that the number of cars, campers, and trailers were handled without incident. To watch these men and women working in temperatures of 106-108 degrees and still being polite and considerate was a wonder in itself.

The individual who voiced those statements during his diatribe would be well advised to check out the facts and discover the truth about what really happened during the weekend. To demand a Grand Jury investigation is as absurd as the yellow journalism that he espoused with this completely false and ridiculous commentary.

So, to all those dedicated law enforcement personnel who gave of their time and effort, I would like to say "thank you" for a job well done.

*I am still in shock after reading the article in August 24th about Judge Roy E. Chapman sentencing convicted child molester Albert Hartach to only be placed on probation.*

*Maybe the judge feels his preventing the 11-year-old child victim from any guilt feelings. But I don't quite see it that way. I bet (Chapman) willing to accept the guilt himself when he lets this child molester out on the streets to find another victim, maybe not so close to home, and also maybe covering his tracks as the next one (child) can't testify.*

*Then for Smeltzer to say he (Hartach) should have probation because there was no evidence of prior sexual offenses and no indication that the man was a chronic child molester.*

*My God - isn't 7 counts enough!!! I count aford copulation, how chronic or sick does one have to get?*

*Not enough of these types of crimes against children even made it that far in court let alone to be reported, only to have all these (D.A.'s) efforts cast aside by one man. I am trusting he (Chapman) is truly concerned about this victim, but I am concerned about all the young girls that could become Hartach's next victim.*

*Max Haru & Smith  
La Brea, Ca.*

## 'Fun' doesn't solve problems

So it is your money, is it, Mr. or Ms. Raylynnmold? (Voice of the People letter, Aug. 28, concerning blocking off San Bernardino's E Street to stop cruising.) I was sorry to learn that you are one more American for whom having "fun"

seems to be the number-one priority in life.

Do you realize at all what a sad condition the world is in today? It is in a sad condition partly because so many people, like you, must have their fun, or, to use broader terms, must do their own thing.

You say it is your gas. Others say, "It is my money!" A woman who was abusing her child said, "She's my kid!" In a high school classroom, a student who was marking up the desk where he sat said to the teacher, "It's my pencil!" It is very difficult, it seems, for all of us to learn that people who live in a civilized society can't always do what they want to do, even with their own property.

There are problems in the world today which threaten to put an end not only to your "fun" but also to the continued existence of life on this planet. Other problems threaten to limit our activities, in which case your fun may be one of the first to go.

It may be that you are able to contribute to the solution to these problems, but not while cruising on E Street or Market Street. There you are contributing to the problems themselves, like air pollution, traffic congestion, the energy crisis, possibly to speed limit violations, and perhaps one day to sudden death on the highways.

HENRY HARDY  
Muscoy

## Hoppe has his fans

Art Hoppe, talented observer of contemporary mores, is without peer. He stings, he explains, he amuses, often chides, but he does not stand aloof from his satires. Indeed, I thought "Adopt an old person" which offended some was quite compassionate, while showing the depth of our national passion and need for animals that do not talk and can be disposed of legally and mercifully.

Few columnists portray so clearly the effect on all ages of our citizenry the abrupt changes in customs and economy. As a very old person, I find Hoppe delightful.

ELIZABETH DE WOLF  
Redlands

We were saddened by the letter from Mr. and Mrs. Clark in Voice of the People Aug. 29. People who are so literal-minded should not read a satirist like Art Hoppe. No one in our household reads sports, classifieds, recipes, Dr. Johnson, or stock market reports (we can't afford stocks). We don't object because we realize some people enjoy these. Please, may we keep Art Hoppe?

A couple of Moldy Oldies —  
MS. W. BENIC and MR. FEDOR  
BENIC  
Colton

Readers' letters are welcome if they conform to standards of fairness and good taste. They should be as brief as possible, preferably typed double-spaced, must bear signature, full address and telephone number (if any) of writer. No initials or fictitious names are allowed. All letters are given consideration, but because of volume received, those unpublished cannot be acknowledged.

## Unemployed deserve compassion

As a visitor to your lovely area, I have been again and again treated with friendliness and courtesy. But when I took a friend of mine to the unemployment office, I was shocked at the callous treatment the unemployed received from the employed at the Redlands unemployment office.

My friend had an appointment at 9:30 a.m. for the purpose of showing that his union cards were paid up to date and to give the unemployment office a list of contacts he had made in trying to obtain work. This man is 50 years old, has never in his life prior hereto been out of work and finds the experience of being unemployed and on unemployment a shattering one.

He arrived promptly and found there was only one line, with 18 people ahead of him. Only one employee was tending to that line and she was in training, with another woman standing alongside to tell her what to do. A half-hour passed, with the line moving very slowly, and the trainee took a break.

During that period of waiting, other employees who were not tending to the waiting unemployed cracked jokes with each other, and had a good deal of laughing going on.

Finally, after 50 minutes of waiting, my friend was third from the front when the trainee returned and another woman also started receiving. I do not know why she (and others, for that matter) hadn't been receiving the unemployed before that time. Finally, after an hour, my friend finally got to the front of the line and in one minute

related the information the unemployment office needed to have in order to continue his unemployment compensation.

As a counselor, I often treat people who are unemployed. It is one of the worst times in their lives, threatening their mental stability, their family lives, and often toppling their financial well-being.

This experience is so earth-shattering that the sense of loss is often like that suffered when there is a death in the family. Job esteem and self esteem are wrapped up in one for most people. Because there is no income, they have probably already had to change the way they formerly lived. They have also lost friends and colleagues and have become isolated. They don't know who they are anymore. Many have not looked for a job for 30 years.

I would like to suggest that all of us, especially those who are employed in the unemployment office, have more compassion for those who are out of work.

Their attitude to me seemed to be one of contempt for those who are on the public dole. But it might pay them to remember that their paychecks also come out of the public dole, and in these days when Proposition 13 is taking more and more of a toll in California, they could easily wind up on the other side of the counter. I hope they do not need a first-hand experience of what it is like to be unemployed in order to give a more prompt and courteous service to the unemployed.

MARJORIE RIDGEWAY  
Phoenix, Ariz.

*I want to congratulate both the Humane Society and the Sun for the Adopt-a-Pet ad in the 8-26-82 paper.*

*The Humane Society deserves warm fuzzies and strokes for its change in policy regarding mature cats. I know from experience that an older cat can adapt to a new home, offering the new owner the joys of a mature, settled pet and extending its own life in a hopefully safe & warm place.*

*The Sun deserves praise for cooperating and participating in a program helping to remediate a shameful community problem that of too many lost, abused and neglected pets. It's a tragedy that so many pet owners allow their pets to reproduce without thinking of the care and safety of the new animals or the nuisance value of uncared for pets. I appreciate your contribution to solving our problem through your public service announcement.*

*Sincerely,  
Sharon Mackley*

*Years ago when Social Security started we were led to believe it was for when we became Senior Citizens. It was not an Insurance policy nor was it for the education and raising of children, it supposedly was a retirement supplement payment for Senior Citizens.*

*In the Sun Telegram Sat. Aug. 21 page A2 - in big headlines "Senate refused 47-42 to extend Social Security aid to students." Now you know where the money has been going for years, so lets place the blame where it belongs.*

*Pres. Reagan was not in office or he would have been*

*blamed for that also - in one year to have it told he has made shambles of this country.*

*Some of these students have not paid back these loans, nor do they intend to are holding down good paying jobs.*

*My folks had to pay for my education the hard way. That is a parents obligation, not the governments and surely not the Social Security, why have kids if you can't take care of them?*

*I am a top payer and a Senior Citizen*

*H. Weidel  
San Bernardino*